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16 February 1982

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First record of the Chilean Woodstar *Eulidia yarrellii* in Peru

On 26 December 1977 Susan Allen-Stotz and I observed a sub-adult male and 2 female-plumaged Chilean Woodstars *Eulidia yarrellii* feeding at *Lantana* and *Hibiscus* flowers in the garden of the Hotel de Turistas, in Tacna, extreme southern Peru. Present for direct comparison were several male and female Peruvian Sheartails *Thaumastora cora* and a female Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopis vesper*. The black tail of the male *Eulidia* was distinctive in colour and shape (see below); females were buff-coloured below (as opposed to the whiter *Thaumastora*), and had a cinnamon-buff band across the base of the tail. When not foraging, the woodstars perched inconspicuously within the cover of shrubs and short trees. On the following day, an adult male was observed intermittently for nearly 2 hours (12.00–14.00) as it visited *Lantana* flowers at the Tacna Airport, about 10 km south of the city. The bird was frequently driven away by the larger Oasis Hummingbirds, and also by 2 adult male Peruvian Sheartails also present. The flight of the woodstar was direct, slow, and bee-like; its wings produced a constant, distinctive buzzing sound not made by the 2 other hummingbird species in the area. The calls of *Eulidia*, slightly raspy *tsick* notes, were less musical than the louder chipping of the sheartails. Occasionally the woodstar would hover and fan its black tail, clearly showing lengthened outer rectrices that curved inward toward the very short central ones.

The Chilean Woodstar was previously known from only 4 areas in extreme northern Chile, from Arica (Tarapacá Province) south to Cobija (Antofagasta Province). Most records of this increasingly rare species (see King 1981) are from the vicinity of Arica, only 40 km south of Tacna; thus its occurrence in the latter area is not surprising. The species may be a regular wanderer to Tacna and possibly further north, and it should be looked for in the infrequently visited foothill valleys of southern Peru in the Departments of Moquegua and Tacna.

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24 March 1982

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